GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:224
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
DIVERSION OF FOODGRAINS TO BANGLADESH
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiry report on complaints of diversion of Public Distribution System (PDS) foodgrains from West Bengal to Bangladesh has since been received from the State Government;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SH. KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a), (b) (c): The State Government of West Bengal has stated that they have not received any specific reports about diversion of PDS foodgrains from West Bengal to Bangladesh.
However there were some Newspaper reports about such diversion. BSF was requested to take all steps to prevent smuggling across the border. They reported that no cases of smuggling of rice on large scale were reported and that they have taken steps to mount extra and strict vigil. State Government also arranged surprise checking by special squads. In some cases FIRs were lodged against a few wholesalers and Rice Mills. The District Magistrates of bordering districts issued prohibitory order u/s 144 Cr.P.C. to prevent unauthorized movement of foodgrains from time to time.